

23 the one or more screws including a longitudinal axis oriented along a plane
24 substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the [a] leg of the tensioned blade
25 extending across the aperture, for adjusting a distance between the first set of
26 returns and the second set of returns and tensioning the tensioned blade along a
27 plane substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of each of the one or more
28 screws

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 -10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Particularly, the Examiner asserts as follows:

In claim 1, line 12, "a first end" is vague as to whether it refers to that previously set forth in line 12 or to another such first end, and it seems that "a" should be changed to --the- or the like. Claim 1 has been amended changing "a" to --the--. Applicant submits that the stated grounds for rejection are moot in light of applicant's amendment of Claim 1. No new matter is added. Applicant requests that this basis for rejection be withdrawn.

In claim 8, line 5, "including" is vague as to what it refers, and it is suggested in line 5 to insert --, said first head member- before "including" or the like. Claim 8 has been amended by inserting --, the first head member- before "including". Applicant submits that the stated grounds for rejection are moot in light of applicant's amendment of Claim 8. No new matter is added. Applicant requests that this basis for rejection be withdrawn.

In claim 8, line 19, "secured to the cutting head at a second end securing member" is vague and it seems that "at" should read --by- or the like. Claim 8 has been amended by changing " at " to -- by --. Applicant submits that the stated grounds for rejection are moot in light of applicant's amendment of Claim 8. No new matter is added. Applicant requests that this basis for rejection be withdrawn.

In claim 8, line 36, it seems that --the- should be inserted before "second" for clarity. Claim 8 has been amended by inserting --the-- before "second". Applicant submits that the stated grounds for rejection are moot in light of applicant's amendment of Claim 8. No new matter is added. Applicant requests that this basis for rejection be withdrawn.

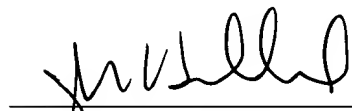
In claim 8, line 38, "the a" is vague, and it seems that "a" should be deleted. Claim 8 has been amended deleting "a". Applicant submits that the stated grounds

for rejection are moot in light of applicant's amendment of Claim 8. No new matter is added. Applicant requests that this basis for rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion.

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance of Claims 1 through 9 and respectfully requests the same. If the Examiner is of a differing opinion he/she is hereby requested to conduct a telephonic interview with the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted this 25th day of February, 2003.



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AMENDED CLAIM 1 WITH AMENDMENTS INCORPORATED
MADE IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED December 17, 2002

- 1 1. (Fourth Amendment) A cutting head assembly comprising:
2 a cutting head including a first head member including a first set of returns,
3 the first head member adjustably connected to a second head member including a
4 second set of returns;
5 a cutting member connected to the cutting head, the cutting member formed
6 of a strip of material including a first end, a second end, a length and a width, the
7 first end of the cutting member secured to the cutting head, the length of the cutting
8 member positioned about the first set of returns and the second set of returns in a
9 serpentine configuration, a leg of the cutting member extending across an aperture
10 formed through the cutting head and the second end of the cutting member secured
11 to the cutting head; and
12 a cutting member tensioning device disposed between and adjustably
13 engaging the first head member and second head member for adjusting a distance
14 between the first set of returns and the second set of returns and tensioning the
15 cutting member.

AMENDED CLAIM 8 WITH AMENDMENTS INCORPORATED
MADE IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED December 17, 2002

1 8. (Fourth Amendment) A cutting head assembly comprising:

2 a cutting head including a first head member including a first set of returns,
3 the first head member opposingly and adjustably connected to a second head
4 member including a second set of returns;

5 a tensioned blade formed of a strip of material, the first head member
6 including a first end, a second end, a length, a longitudinal axis and a width, the
7 tensioned blade positioned about the first set of returns and the second set of
8 returns in a serpentine configuration, a leg of the tensioned blade extending across
9 an aperture formed through the cutting head, the first end of the tensioned blade
10 secured to the cutting head by a first end securing member and the second end of
11 the tensioned blade secured to the cutting head by a second end securing member;

12 the first set of returns each including a face that is oriented substantially
13 perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tensioned blade for exerting a
14 substantially equal tensile force across a full width of the tensioned blade,
15 substantially reducing stress risers in the tensioned blade;

16 the second set of returns each including a face that is oriented substantially
17 perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tensioned blade for exerting a tensile
18 force across a full width of the tensioned blade, substantially reducing stress risers in
19 the tensioned blade; and

20 a tensioning device including one or more screws disposed between and
21 adjustably engaging the first head member and the second head member, each of
22 the one or more screws including a longitudinal axis oriented along a plane
23 substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the leg of the tensioned blade extending
24 across the aperture, for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the
25 second set of returns and tensioning the tensioned blade along a plane substantially
26 parallel to the longitudinal axis of each of the one or more screws.